

Women in the Economy Commission Meeting - Minutes

Thursday, November 6, 2014

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

House Building, Room 25 – Salt Lake City

Commission: Speaker Rebecca Lockhart, Representative Jennifer Seelig, Ann Marie Thompson, Trina Eyring, Jennifer Robinson, Anne Burkholder, Judy Barnett, Heather Barnum

Excused: Carrie Mayne, Senator Deidre Henderson and Senator Luz Robles

Staff Support: Gail Tilson with additional support from Jen Jankowski

Attendees: Karla Aguirre, Tracy Gruber, Tami Goetz and Pam Perlich

| AGENDA | DISCUSSION | RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION |
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| Welcome | Welcome (Representative Jennifer Seelig) | A motion was made to approve the minutes from the Oct. 23, 2014 meeting. Motion carried. |
| DWS Program Analysis – Roadblocks for Women | <p>Presentation by Karla Aguirre, DWS Associate Director, Program and Training and Tracy Gruber, Director, DWS Office of Child Care</p> <p>TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) grants from the federal government are given with stipulations. There is a work participation requirement of 50%, which means 50% of the people using the grant need to be in a work/work study/internship/self-employment arrangement or money is withheld from the state. Only 12 months of full-time schooling is allowed and then the participant must be working.</p> <p>Can we explore sub-groups, which would help with time limits?</p> | <p>Roadblocks: 1) TANF program needs to be re-designed to allow women to obtain the education they need. We need a waiver from rigid activities set by the Feds.</p> <p>Karla will check and see if 36 month time limit on TANF is state-imposed. She will also check on the number of women on TANF program (4,000?).</p> |

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| STEM Solutions | <p>One piece of policy which really needs to be changed is the one where only ten hours of education counts toward credits when a student is working toward high school graduation or GED. He or she needs a total of 30 hours of participation per week, but only ten of those hours can be education.</p> <p>Another barrier is only four weeks of job search counts toward credits. It may take a lot longer than that to find a job. After four weeks, there needs to be a break and then the participant can come back and look more, but only a total of 360 hours will count.</p> <p>The Office of Childcare has two primary goals: 1) To support parents while they are working and unable to be at home to care for their children. 2) To provide an opportunity to ensure that when the children are in a child care setting, they are in a developmentally appropriate setting. These goals are accomplished through subsidies and grants.</p> <p>The three biggest issues confronting women and families that are working (in terms of child care) are: work schedule volatility, trauma and challenges leaving children with child care providers, and last – education and child care.</p> <p>Question posed by Speaker Lockhart was, “What are the limitations the legislature is placing on flexibility based on line item allocations as opposed to what the executive branch is deciding to do in directing the appropriated revenue internally?” Is the legislature perpetuating a barrier based on the way they budget in line item? Who is making the decisions – the legislature or the agency?</p> <p>Presentation by Tami Goetz, Executive Director, STEM Action Center</p> <p>“Part of the mission of the STEM Action Center is to help create more coordination and therefore, more meaningful collaborations so that we can leverage the resources that already exist from the state for STEM education.”</p> <p>We are not just K-12, we are K to Gray. Our salaries are 26% higher. In our system,</p> | <p>Karla will find out what the graduation rate of women in the program is.</p> <p>Karla will research and see what would be entailed in extending 36 month deadline to 5 years.</p> <p>Karla will provide income guidelines for families on TANF.</p> <p>Karla will prepare a document which answers all of the questions which have been posed.</p> <p>Tracy will look into this and get clarification.</p> |

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| <p>Demographic Analysis of Women in Utah</p> | <p>mentors are a big deal.</p> <p>There is a national initiative called Million Women Mentors. It's a state-by-state commitment, on a pledge basis where states pledge to have x-number of men and women mentors focusing on middle school and high school girls. Tami would like to have us look at this as an end goal and then back-track a program, or framework, built upon what we already have so we don't lose the investments that people have already made.</p> <p>Tami Goetz would like to put together a proposal where the commission may provide the vision and the leadership to help guide this and provide input. She will commit the STEM Action Center and some partners to provide the worker bees.</p> <p>Presentation by Dr. Pam Perlich, Senior Research Economist, University of Utah's Bureau of Economic and Business Research</p> <p>The demographic landscape in Utah is changing rapidly. In 2010 minority births were highest in the state. Women were the majority of U.S. workers. Jobs lost during the recession were high-wage jobs, whereas jobs in the recovery have been low-wage jobs. The majority of households have no real net worth and the bottom 50% have incomes at or below \$22,000.</p> <p>Utah has great diversity. Our median age is the youngest in the nation. Our fertility rate has decreased from 4.3 to 2.4 and household arrangements have changed too. Households comprised of married couples with children are now 1 in 3 in Utah and 1 in 5 nationally.</p> <p>There are now 129 languages spoken in homes by students in Utah. There is great diversity across neighborhoods.</p> <p>The fastest-growing population we have in Utah is the 85 and older group. Utah is behind the national trends by a generation and a half, but we are trending the same</p> | <p>Tami will prepare a report about what is going on in other states and what is working well. She will also put together a power point presentation for the commission.</p> |

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| Communications Subcommittee | <p>way. We have the biggest elderly demographics ever.</p> <p>Message to the commission and legislators: When planning for Utah, this state has much diversity and we need to plan accordingly.</p> <p>Included in the legislation of this committee was the ability to create subcommittees as the need arises. There have been many requests for members of the commission to speak to groups and there are policy needs which we have identified and agreed upon.</p> <p>We should be a voice in the community and address the issues of Utah being the lowest in the union for leadership among women.</p> <p>Speaker Lockhart made a motion to create a communications subcommittee. Motion passed. Speaker Lockhart and Rep. Seelig are available to serve on the subcommittee. Heather Barnum and Ann Marie Thompson also want to join the subcommittee.</p> | <p>Check with Carrie on the public meeting rules to make sure we abide by those rules.</p> |
| Matrix | <p>This is a living document and is current. Comments since the last meeting are mostly on the second page.</p> | <p>This matrix is the roadmap to our success and it is important that we fill it out.</p> |
| Cartoon | <p>Picture was taken of the commission with Troy (the man in charge of streaming the meeting) to send to Bagley.</p> | |
| Mission Ferris Beuhler | <p>Roll call was made for Dr. Robinson's video.</p> | |
| Adjournment | | |